

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ITU, ETEL, PGOV, WB, GW, GE

SUBJ: ITU: DESIGNATION OF WEST BERLIN IN CCITT DOCUMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 277802; (B) GENEVA 8737

1. ON NOVEMBER 15, ITU DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BUTLER WAS INFORMED BY U.S. MISSION OFFICER, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP OF FOUR, THAT U.S. CONCURRED IN BUTLER'S PROPOSED DISCLAIMER LANGUAGE AND THAT U.S. RESPONSE HAD BEEN COORDINATED WITH FRG, FRANCE AND UK.

2. ON NOVEMBER 19, BUTLER SEPARATELY CALLED IN REPS OF FRG, FRANCE, UK AND U.S. MISSION AND INFORMED THEM THAT AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH DDR OFFICIALS HE WISHED TO:

A. "HARMONIZE" ALL REFERENCES IN SECTION OF EUROPEAN PLAN BOOK WHICH LISTS INTERNATIONAL SWITCHING CENTERS (TF-1) TO WEST BERLIN AS "D-BERLIN WEST". HE NOTED THAT MAJORITY
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OF SUBMISSIONS USED THIS DESIGNATION, ALTHOUGH FRENCH, UK

AND SOME OTHERS USED "D-BERLIN" AND STATED THAT IN INTERESTS OF STANDARDIZING NOMENCLATURE, HE WOULD REQUEST THOSE WHO HAD SUBMITTED LATTER DESIGNATION TO AGREE TO CHANGE TO FORMER. HE ADDED FURTHER RATIONALE THAT FRG AUTHORITIES, IN SUBMITTING THEIR OWN PLAN FOR SECTION TF-1, HAD THEMSELVES DESIGNATED WEST BERLIN SWITCHING CENTER AS D-BERLIN WEST; AND

B. CHANGE DDR SUBMISSION IN TF-6 (LISTING OF CIRCUITS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES) WHICH NOW INCLUDES TWO SEPARATE LISTINGS, ONE FOR FRG UNDER D SYMBOL AND ONE FOR BERLIN WEST WITH BLANK COUNTRY SYMBOL. BUTLER SUGGESTED ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO HAVE ONE LISTING UNDER D WITH TOTAL FRG CIRCUITS FOLLOWED BY ASTERISK REFERRING TO NOTE STATING THAT OF NINE TOTAL CIRCUITS, FOUR ARE FOR BERLIN WEST. HE MENTIONED THIS POSSIBILITY TO U.S. AND UK REPS BUT NOT TO FRG OR FRENCH OFFICIALS.

3. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD OBTAINED DDR AGREEMENT TO FOREGOING PROPOSALS, BUTLER STATED THAT ON NOVEMBER 18, THEY INFORMED HIM THAT ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT "AGREE" TO CHANGES, THEY WOULD NOT PROTEST IF NEW PLAN BOOK WAS PUBLISHED AS BUTLER PROPOSED.

4. FRENCH, UK, FRG AND U.S. MISSION OFFICERS INDICATED THEY WOULD DISCUSS MATTER IN GENEVA GROUP OF FOUR AND ALL FOUR WOULD ADVISE THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO US THAT BUTLER HAS MADE A DEAL WITH THE EAST GERMANS THAT IF THE TERM D-BERLIN WEST IS USED IN PLANS UNIFORMLY (RATHER THAN INCLUDING SOME REFERENCES TO D-BERLIN), THEY WOULD NOT PROTEST AGAINST ITU'S CHANGING DDR'S OWN ENTRY TO INCLUDE BERLIN WEST UNDER D IN DDR'S LISTING OF OUTGOING CIRCUITS.

6. WITH REGARDS TO PROPOSAL 2(A) ABOVE, GENEVA GROUP OF FOUR SEES LITTLE HARM SUBSTANTIVELY IN ACCEEDING TO BUTLER'S PROPOSAL, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FRG SUBMISSION, PROVIDED THAT ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION RE PROPOSAL 2(B) IS PROVIDED. HOWEVER, BUTLER'S SOMEWHAT EVASIVE
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STATEMENTS RE NATURE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN UNDER 2(B) CAUSE SOME GROUNDS FOR CONCERN. FRENCH AND UK REPS ARE RELUCTANT TO RECOMMEND REQUESTED CHANGE BE MADE UNLESS BUTLER IS ABLE TO GIVE MORE SOLID ASSURANCES OF ACCEPTABLE ACTION RE TF-6.

7. HOWEVER, IF WE CAN GET SUCH ASSURANCES, WE BELIEVE THAT REWARDS COULD BE HIGH SINCE THIS COULD BE FIRST

TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT DDR HAS AGREED DE FACTO TO INCLUSION OF BERLIN WEST UNDER D IN A DDR LISTING IN AN ITU DOCUMENT. FURTHERMORE, THIS CASE COULD BE USED BY FOUR AS A PRECEDENT WHEN SIMILAR CASES MIGHT ARISE IN THE FUTURE.

8. ONE POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE FOR GENEVA GROUP OF FOUR TO SEE BUTLER COLLECTIVELY AND TRY TO PIN HIM DOWN ON EXACTLY HOW HE PROPOSES TO HANDLE 2(B). END COMMENT.

9. BUTLER HAS ALSO REQUESTED ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THE FOUR PREFER PARENTHESES AROUND WEST IN BERLIN WEST. WHILE NOTING THAT SOME COMPUTERS CANNOT HANDLE PARENTHESES, BUTLER STILL WISHES TO STANDARDIZE REFERENCES IN ITU DOCUMENTS TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

10. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.CATTO

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